



EMIL GOTTLIEB KOHLER was born 14 Aug 1870 at Sonnenberg, Bern Switzerland, son of Gottlieb Kohler and Elizabeth Mueller. During his childhood, his father was a rock mason, the wages were small and the family was very poor. At the age of six, Emil herded goats and gleaned hay along rocky cliffs for winter feed. He also gathered wood for fuel which he carried home on his back. In 1878 his father was injured by a falling rock and turned to the shoemaker trade. The shoes made were taken by Emil and his mother and sold in the villages, sometimes ten miles distant.

When Emil was seven, he was admitted to the public school at Niederscherli. After four years, he took a special examination and was given "permission" to study French.

In 1880 the Mormon missionaries came. The public minister Herr von Fellenberg denounced the Mormon religion saying that only the scum of the people belonged to that church. Altho there was much persecution, Emil's father was baptized. One year later with snow on the ground and in the cold waters of Scherlibrook, Emil was baptized on 20 Nov 1883. A party of emigrants were leaving for Zion on 4 May 1884. Two weeks before, Emil who was just fourteen was informed by his father that he was to go. He was admonished "to be a good boy, remember his parents, and possibly aid them in the future." After twelve days on the great ocean liner Arizona, they arrived at the "monstrous city of New York" then to Salt Lake City, Utah where a great feast awaited them at the tithing office. On 1 June 1884, Emil was among a group of saints going to Santa Clara. There he received employment as a laborer at fifty dollars per year. His wages were paid in advance to Elder John G. Hafen for "Emigration Fees" by his employer. The next year's earnings were the means of bringing his sister Bertha (age nine) to America. A year later they were reunited in Salt Lake City with their parents, brothers and sisters who had arrived from Switzerland. They proceeded to Midway by wagon to establish residence. Once more the struggle began to provide for that large family (eleven persons in all.)

Emil helped with the family finances by herding cows at two cents per head per day. His various occupations included working in a brick yard, making willow baskets, chopping wood and a chore boy at the Duncan House Hotel. Some years later he and Ernest Probst were partners in a business selling butter, eggs and meats to Park City residents. Afterward he engaged in the hide, pelt and wool business by himself. Then later he extended his activities by becoming a wholesale butcher and dealer in livestock. He was a sportsman and loved to fish. He was the organizer of the Heber Exchange Mercantile Co. of which he was president, also a member of the Charleston Town Board. He had a most progressive spirit that recognized the opportunities of the region.

Emil said "he had a great interest in paying his tithing" and paid it on Christmas gifts too. He had an unwavering faith, knew the gospel was true and delighted in bearing his testimony. He was industrious and "of a saving nature." He hoped someday to obtain a better education and attend the BYU. But he was happy when called by Pres. Wilford Woodruff on a mission April 1895, being in charge of the Stuttgart branch and released June 1897. After his marriage he again fulfilled a mission to Switzerland being presiding Elder of Langnau and Basel branches, 1903-1905. He held a number of church positions, was president of a Teachers and Elders Quorum and Pres. of 96th Quorum of Seventy, Sunday School teacher, secretary, instructor in Religion Class and was a High Priest at the time of his death.

On 21 Dec 1898 in the Salt Lake Temple, Emil married Elise Maria Kupfer. Elise "Lill", or "Lizzie" as she was called, was a member of a large family too. Elise had a lovely alto voice and sang in the Tabernacle and German choirs and at funerals. She was active in church work and a devoted mother to a large family. Their home was open to young converts from Switzerland. The family lived for a period in Midway, Charleston, and later moved to Heber where a ten acre tract was purchased on which to build a new home. The following ten children were born to them: Edward (died in infancy) Alma (injured while hunting died at 19) Lucylle md. Thomas MacNaughton, Harry md. Reba Watkins, Orson md. 1)Theora Jeffs 2) Gladys Sweat, Eva md.1) Ralph Pease 2) Joseph Pearce, Bessie md. Delos Palmer, Fay and Rulon died in infancy, Glen md. Marvel Sorensen. There were 16 grandchildren.

Emil died 11 Dec 1919 and Elise was laid to rest just two years later, on July 22, 1921 leaving six children. Lucylle just sixteen was the eldest. She married a year later and she and her husband were appointed guardians. The children continued to reside in the family home until they married.

Emil and Elise were highly respected by all who knew them and left a host of friends as well as family to mourn their loss.

Emil Kohler

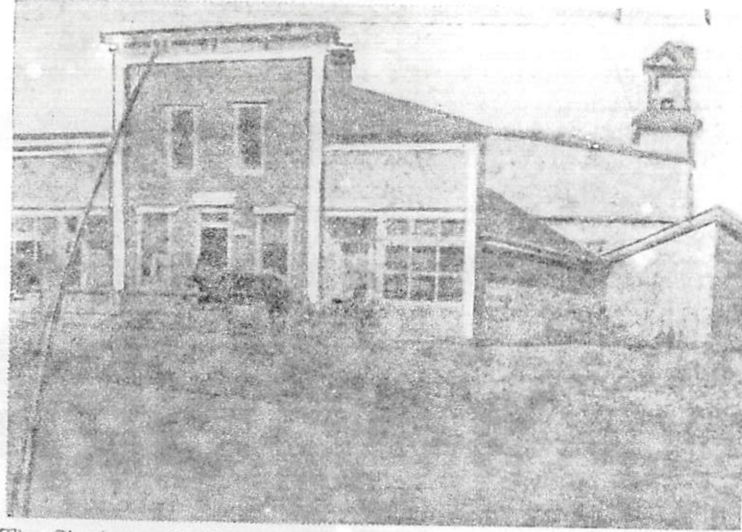
Emil Kohler

William and John Winterton. The second irrigation company was the Spring Creek Canal Co., which was actually built to bring water to Heber, but was also extended on to Charleston. This system was enlarged in 1895 and became a major water distribution system to Charleston. The third irrigation company organized was the Charleston Lower Canal system which was begun in the year 1887 by Joseph R. Murdock and completed for use in June, 1888. These three systems still supply irrigation waters to Charleston today.

Early in Charleston's history a store was built by Nymphas C. Murdock. The first meat market was opened in 1880 by George Smith. He also bought and sold produce, hay, grain, butter and eggs. For many years Mr. Smith drove a wagon to Park City and often to Salt Lake City to peddle his merchandise.

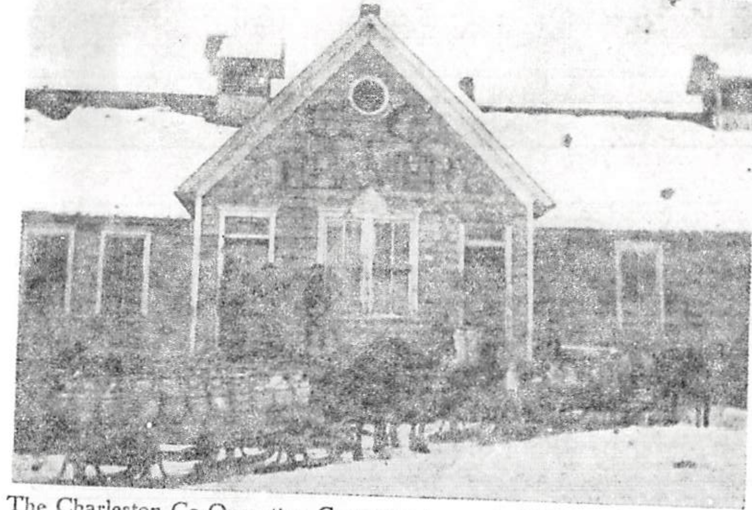
George T. Baker, who had come to Charleston from American Fork in Utah County opened the first blacksmith shop in 1884 and successfully operated it for many years.

The first cooperative store in Wasatch County was built in Charleston by Joseph R. Murdock, and grew to have the largest volume of business of any store in the valley.



The Charleston Co-Operative Store, established by Joseph R. Murdock. This was the first co-op store in the valley and grew to have the largest business volume of any store in the county at that time.

In 1894 George Daybell built a small creamery on his farm and operated it there until business became too active to carry on in the buildings there. Mr. Daybell persuaded Joseph R. Murdock to buy shares in the business and the two men built a large structure and began operating the Charleston Co-Operative Creamery. The business grew rapidly until



The Charleston Co-Operative Creamery begun in 1894 by George Daybell and later expanded to this building by Mr. Daybell and Joseph R. Murdock.

they had seven milk wagons bringing in milk from local farms. They processed about 21,000 gallons of milk a day, and sold their butter, cheese and other milk products as far west as California and into the eastern markets.

Nymphas C. Murdock's son, Joseph, built a saw mill on the Provo River just north of Charleston, east of the Provo River bridge and west of the George Edwards home. A pond was also built in which water was stored over-night to provide a sufficient supply for the following day's operation. Logs were hauled from all parts of the valley to the saw mill which operated successfully for many years.

Through the years there have been many other businesses in Charleston. Emil Kohler ran a meat market, while Phoebe North Daybell had a millinery shop. Sarah Ritchie Wright had a fine dressmaking parlor, while Ernest Bates was proprietor of a popular ice cream and confectionary parlor. One of the state's leading mid-wives, Mrs. Etta Wagstaff, also practiced in Charleston.

Charleston's main industrial efforts, however, have centered around agriculture. Thousands of acres of meadow lands have supported large herds of dairy cattle, flocks of blooded sheep and hundreds of head of fine beef cattle.

From the farms near Charleston have annually come some 40,000 bushels of grain and hundreds of tons of hay. Bishop John M. Ritchie and some associates purchased and imported a herd of some 300 head of pure-bred Hereford cattle, and later Hyrum, Moroni and Fred Winterton and John C. Whiting imported fine breeding stock to make Charles-

Dean Luke
Safeway Butcher

Dean Luke

Phil Lyons

Jeannie

476 E. 200 So. Heber, Ut.

654 - 2940

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Lori Ann

Lenny Reed

Laurel Dawn

Bsp Phil Lyons
safeway Butcher

Phil Lyons